

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives pause to recognize the Reverend Kenneth E. Ray, Sr., an esteemed resident of Kansas City, Missouri, who will be honored for his forty-six years of exceptional service to the Christian ministry during a special celebration to be held June 13, 2003, at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Kansas City; and

Whereas, Kenneth Ray has served as the Pastor of Highland Missionary Baptist Church in Kansas City for thirty-four years, prior to which time he led the congregations of churches in Paola, Kansas, from 1964 to 1969; Sandsprings, Oklahoma, from 1961 to 1964; and Plattsburg, Missouri, from 1958 to 1961; and

Whereas, Pastor Ray was a devout member of the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church in Kansas City, where he served as a member of the Choir, Deacon for three years, and sang in the Dixie Wonders Quartet before answering the call to the ministry in 1957; and

Whereas, born in Kansas City on October 10, 1932, Pastor Ray graduated from Lincoln High School and went on to receive his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Rockhurst College and continue his studies at Penn Valley College, Western Baptist College, Central Baptist College, and the University of Oklahoma; and

Whereas, a former employee of Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, where he received the #1 Salesman Award in 1969, Pastor Ray dutifully served his country in the United States Army as a Chaplain Assistant from 1955 to 1958; and

Whereas, Chairman of the Peoples March on Washington, Pastor Ray is the proud recipient of such prestigious awards and honors as the 2001 Oklahoma State University Humanitarian Award; and

Whereas, the first African American Vice President of the Communications Workers of America Union, Pastor Ray is exceedingly proud of his affiliation with the Jackson County Action Board, New Era District Association, National Baptist Convention, the Missionary Baptist State Convention, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; and

Whereas, Pastor Ray has been abundantly blessed with the love and admiration of a wonderful family whose members include his devoted wife, Frances R. Ray, and his five children, Kenneth Ray, Jr., Gregory Ray, Evelonne Ray, Regina Ray, and Debra Ray:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, unanimously join in expressing our utmost appreciation to Pastor Ray for his forty-six years of faithful service to Highland Missionary Baptist Church and to the Christian ministry, and in wishing him the long, enjoyable, and rewarding retirement he so richly deserves; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Reverend Kenneth E. Ray, Sr., as a mark of our esteem for him.

Offered by _____
Representative Yvonne S. Wilson
District No. 42

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of
Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First

Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 2948, adopted May 15, 2003.

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker